

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02252 250729Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11 /077 W

----- 123011

R 241644Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3510

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 2252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OAU, UK, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA RETURNS TO PUBLIC VIEW AND LEAVES FOR ADDIS AND OAU:

SIDESTEPS QUESTION OF GOWON EXTRADITION

1. MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA LEFT LAGOS FEB. 23 LEADING SMALL
FMG DELEGATION TO OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN ADDIS.
TALKING WITH NEWSMEN AT IKEJA (NOW MURTALA MUHAMMED) AIRPORT
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, GARBA SIDESTEPED QUESTION ON WHETHER
FMG HAS FORMALLY ASKED BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO EXTRADITE GENERAL
GOWON. GARBA REPORTED AS SAYING QTE ALL THOSE WHO ARE CONNECTED
WITH THE WICKED PLOT WILL ANSWER FULLY FOR IT...THE GOVERNMENT
WILL DO ITS BEST TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES TO THE NATION... WE
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 02252 250729Z

WILL DEAL WITH GENERAL GOWON AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND

IN THE APPROPRIATE WAY. UNQTE

2. GARBA ALSO (UNSURPRISINGLY) PROCLAIMED ADMISSION NETO GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA TO OAU AS VICTORY FOR NIGERIA AND ALL PROGRESSIVE AFRICAN NATIONS AND REGRETTE THAT FORMER HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED NOT ALIVE TO ENJOY THE GLORY OF SUCCESS OF HIS POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR MPLA.

3. MEMBERS NIGERIAN DELEGATION WHO ACCOMPANIED GARBA ON FLIGHT WERE MEA DIRECTOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS OMOTOYO OGUNSULIRE AND OAU SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSIONN SECRETARY GENERAL A. O. ODELOLA.

4. COMMENT. GARBA'S AIRPORT APPEARANCE IS FIRST TIME HE HAS COME BEFOR PUBLIC SINCE ABORTIVE COUP. UNTIL FMG ANNOUNCEMENT FEB. 18 THAT HE HAD BEEN ONE OF COUP PLOTTERS' TARGETS (SEE LAGOS 2020 AND 2058), RUMORS ABOUNDED THAT GARBA HAD BEEN IMPLICATED IN CONSPIRACY TO EFFECT RETURN HIS FORMER PATRON AND FELLOW MIDDLE BELTER (GOWON) TO POWER. MEA COMMISSIONER NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN COMPLETE OFFICIAL CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH. HIS DISPATCH TO OAU CONFERENCE IS YET ANOTHER FMG SIGN TO PUBLIC THAT THINGS SUPPOSEDLY HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL.
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